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General Assembly

FIFTIETH SESSION

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GENERAL COMMITTEE
3rd meeting
held on
Friday, 20 October 1995
at 9.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 3rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FREITAS do AMARAL
(President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.55 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE FIFTIETH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS (continued)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by the Philippines (A/50/232)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider a request for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace".

2. The representative of the Philippines had asked to address the Committee in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, Ms. Limjuco (Philippines) took a place at the Committee table.

4. Ms. LIMJUCO (Philippines), introducing the request contained in document A/50/232, said that at least one plenary meeting of the General Assembly should be devoted to the item for the purpose of endorsing the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, and that substantive consideration of the item should be allocated to the Second and Third Committee respectively, as appropriate. The plenary meeting should preferably take place before the Third Committee began its discussion of agenda item 107 on the advancement of women.

5. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the addition item on the agenda.

6. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting for the purpose of endorsing the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action and that it should also be allocated to the Second and Third Committees, as appropriate, for its substantive consideration.

7. Ms. Limjuco (Philippines) withdrew.

Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item submitted by a number of countries (A/50/233)

8. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider a request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights".

9. The representative of Ecuador had indicated his desire to address the Committee on the matter in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

10. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Valencia Rodriguez (Ecuador) took a place at the Committee table.

11. Mr. VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ (Ecuador), speaking also on behalf of Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela, introduced the request contained in document A/50/233, noting that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had been given unprecedented political and moral authority in order that he might act as the moral conscience of mankind. The gravity of the responsibility that went with the post could be measured by the degree of confidence Member States had placed in it as well as by its general acceptance in governmental as well as non-governmental circles.

12. The High Commissioner should be guided by the principles of impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity and efficiency, in the knowledge that all human rights were universal, indivisible and interdependent, and should perform his duties within the context of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments relating to human rights and international law.

13. The delegations on whose behalf he spoke felt that it was necessary to include in the agenda of the General Assembly a sub-item which would facilitate the Assembly's consideration of the report that the High Commissioner was requested to submit yearly in compliance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 48/141.

14. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional sub-item as a sub-item of agenda item 112.

15. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the sub-item should be allocated to the Third Committee.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.